

CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER
DUENAS MEMORIAL HIGH
SCHOOL AND THE ACADEMY OF
OUR LADY OF GUAM ON THEIR
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago, Bishop Apollinaris William Baumgartner's dream came to fruition. Firmly believing that the growth of Guam's Catholic Church depended on the establishment of the local clergy, he worked to ensure that young men on Guam had the opportunity to receive religious vocation training and to pursue university level education. Upon contacting the Stigmatine Fathers at Waltham, Massachusetts, work commenced on a minor seminary accommodating young Guam men aspiring to the priesthood.

It was an uphill battle. At the time, the church in Guam was in the earliest stages of self-reliance. It was a challenge to survive with meager funds and at the same time support the goal of an institution that will foster Guamanian clergies, bishops and priests. Money was not the sole problem. Time and energy also went into clearing the land upon which the school was to be built. Fortunately, efforts from dedicated followers make the building construction possible.

In the summer of 1948, five Stigmatine Fathers, considered pioneers and Founding Fathers, arrived on Guam. The Father Superior, Rev. Joseph Morgan, C.P.S., was accompanied by the Revs. Charles Egan, C.P.S., GERALD O. GOGGIN, C.P.S., Leo James Garachi, C.P.S., and Elisworth Fortman, C.P.S. to form the nucleus of the teaching staff. A total of 17 Stigmatine Fathers instructed at the school until 1959 when local clergy were able to administer and staff the school. Capuchin Franciscan Friars, who were pastors of most of the parishes in the Marianas in those days, took over the school's administration.

Father Duenas Memorial School (FDMS) was named after a local priest martyred by Japanese Imperial troops during World War II for sympathizing with the Americans. FDMS opened its doors on October 1, 1948. To usher in the school's first year, a solemn high mass was celebrated in the presence of Bishop Baumgartner and attended by the parents, relatives and friends of students. Among those who filled the chapel to maximum capacity were representatives of the Guam Department of Education, Mr. Norbert Tabery and Mr. Simon Sanchez. The presence bears testimony to the good relations which have always existed between Catholic Schools, FDMS being the first, and the Government of Guam.

To attract more students, Bishop Baumgartner decided to admit non-seminarians, classified then as "day-students," to FDMS. Considered as a college preparatory High School, day students attended classes during the daytime while seminarians boarded at the school. A total enrollment of less than fifty students doubled in 1949 and has since steadily increased.

Around the same time of Father Duenas Memorial's inception, Bishop Baumgartner laid the foundation of yet another of Guam's premier educational institutions. Named after

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, the Academy of Our Lady of Guam (AOLG) is a female-only Catholic educational institution delivering Catholic educational service based on the Gospel values of love.

With the assistance of my aunt, Sister Mary Inez Underwood, the Academy opened its doors to 36 freshmen on September 8, 1949. First housed in a section of the Agana Cathedral Activities Hall, the students learned about developed skills in the sciences, mathematics, language and fine arts as well as the life and example of Christ.

Under the guidance of the future Archbishop of Guam, Monsignor Felixberto Camacho Flores spearheaded the construction of a permanent structure for the Academy in 1960. In 1974, the school received its first accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. It has undergone the accreditation process successfully four times after this, the last being in March of 1996.

From an initial enrollment of 36 students in 1949, the student body now consists of over 400 young women. Under the direction of Sister Mary Inez Underwood, Sister Mary Roberta Taitano, Sister Marie Pierre Martinez, Sister Evelyn Muna, Sister Mary Mark Martinez, Sister Mary Francis Jerome Cruz, Sister Mary Helene Torres, and Sister Mary Angela Perez, the Academy has distinguished itself as one of the finest college and career-bound preparatory schools on Guam. Sister Mary Francis Jerome and Mrs. Daphne Castillo continue this tradition of excellence today.

While AOLG students are recognized islandwide for their outstanding scholastic achievement, participation in Academic Challenge Bowls, Mock Trials, and the Debate forums, AOLG is also recognized locally and regionally for its strong interscholastic sports program, such as previous Far East Volleyball Tournament championships, tennis and golf tournaments, as well as an array of other youth athletic activities.

October 14, 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Father Duenas Memorial High School and the Academy of Our Lady of Guam. I commend and congratulate the founders, administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni and alumnae of these two fine Catholic schools.

For fifty years, the schools have generated men and women who have made great contributions toward the transformation of Guam from an island ravaged by war in the forties to its present state as a political and economic center in the Western Pacific.

I wish FDMS and AOLG continued success. I am confident that these fine institutions of faith and learning will continue their commitment to excellence by providing a valuable educational opportunity to the sons and daughters of Guam.

HONORING HAZEL HAINSWORTH
YOUNG AND THE ALPHA KAPPA
OMEGA CHAPTER

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of honoring the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter and Mrs. Hazel Hainsworth

Young. This Resolution first recognizes the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter on the celebration of their 70th birthday. It also recognizes the dedication and commitment of Mrs. Hazel Hainsworth to the sorority and to her community.

Throughout its storied history, the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter has been an instrument of leadership in many civic, cultural, and charitable projects. This chapter has consistently made an effort to enhance the quality of life for all Houston residents. In the early 1930's, it was this chapter which distributed milk to the underprivileged children of Houston. This tradition continues in the 1990's with its devotion to improving academic achievement among African-American students. Whatever the need, this chapter has answered the call with commitment and leadership.

Mrs. Hazel Hainsworth Young serves as a vivid reminder of our sorority's commitment to wholesome sisterly friendships and of our endeavors to serve our community. She has exemplified the true meaning of being a sister in the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She continues to be a source of inspiration, not only for me and for you, but to our future members. Who better to look up to for direction and leadership, than to one of our founding sisters.

This birthday celebration allows us to reflect on our past and to look to our future. The past is filled with many Alpha Kappa Alpha sisters, who like Mrs. Hazel Hainsworth Young, dedicated themselves to the improvement of their community. These sisters have set an example which future members of this chapter can emulate.

On this occasion of your 70th year of existence, I want to commend the sisters of the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter for their dedication to sisterhood and for their efforts to improve the Houston community. I also want to thank Mrs. Hazel Hainsworth Young for her leadership and service.

A TRIBUTE TO THE STREET-
LEVEL YOUTH MEDIA PROGRAM

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Street-Level Youth Media program for their designation as a recipient of the "Coming Up Taller" Award. The Annual "Coming Up Taller" Awards are sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities to showcase cultural excellence and enhance the availability of out-of-school arts and humanities programs to children, especially those with limited resources.

Street-Level provides a concrete example of how after-school, weekend and summer arts programs are effectively used by communities in prevention strategies for children and youth.

Street-Level began in 1993 as a vision of a small group of artists who wanted to create a hands-on program that would provide free access to emerging technologies. Children and young adults, with the help of computers, cameras, video, radio and other mediums of media art and technology, were given a forum for self-expression, communication and social change.